

Fire at Beta Theta Pi Destroys Top Floor, Frat Moves to Annex

By Ray C. He
STAFF REPORTER

A fire at Beta Theta Pi caused more than \$100,000 in damages to one of the fraternity's two houses late Friday night, according to the Boston Fire Department.

No one was hurt in the fire, which was contained on the fourth floor of the building, said fire department spokesman David Walsh.

The building, located at 119 Bay State Road, was empty because pipes had burst the night before, disabling the sprinkler and heating systems, said Herman Marshall '78, BTP's alumni board president.

"There were no brothers in the house at the time," he said. "They had moved to the annex because we didn't have heat in the main house because the pipes had been freezing," he said.

Cause of fire unknown

The cause of the fire in the empty BTP house is unknown. "Whether it was a space heater or not, we're not sure. That's still under investigation," said David N. Rogers, the director of fraternities, sororities and independent living groups.

"The cause of the fire is undetermined at the time," Walsh said. The fire is being investigated by the Boston Fire Department's Fire Investigation Unit.

The fraternity's insurance com-

Fire, Page 13



PETER R. RUSSO—THE TECH

A burned-out bay window on the fourth floor of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity house overlooks Storrow Drive. A Friday night fire caused more than \$100,000 in damages.

MIT Denies Wrongful Death in Guy Lawsuit

By Kathleen L. Dobson

MIT has finally answered the wrongful death lawsuit filed by the parents of Richard A. Guy Jr. '99, denying that the Institute knew about drug use at East Campus or caused Guy's 1999 death, which came as a result of his nitrous oxide abuse at the dormitory.

The Guys, who are one of three families seeking to hold MIT responsible for a student's on-campus death, sued MIT in August 2002, one day before the three-year statute of limitations would have expired.

Their lawsuit is peculiar. Unlike the plaintiffs in MIT's other wrongful death lawsuits, the Guys have not asked for a particular amount of damages, have declined to speak with the press, and have made no attempt to get around the \$20,000 statutory limit on damages that MIT can be required to pay in wrongful death cases.

That, and the fact that the Guys allowed MIT to delay its answer for 14 months, led to speculation that the lawsuit would be settled without MIT having to reply in court.

But MIT finally answered the lawsuit on Nov. 21, denying as expected all responsibility in Guy's death, which was ruled an accident.

Daryl J. Lapp, an MIT lawyer in the case, said that not much should be inferred from MIT's answer. It would not be hard for the Guys to amend the lawsuit to include more money or name more people as

defendants, he said.

The Guys' lawyers declined to comment.

MIT says it didn't know of drugs

In its response, MIT admits that in late August 1999, Guy had "engaged in experimental drug use and had sought treatment and counseling from MIT's medical and health service staff for this problem." However, MIT denies that it knew or should have known that drug use was ongoing at East Campus.

The complaint refers to the "appearance of the 5th floor, where the walls and ceilings of part of the 5th floor were painted black and light bulbs painted pink and purple" as evidence of ongoing drug use at Fifth East. MIT also denies that non-student drug users were allowed to live on the 5th floor, as the Guys had alleged.

In addition, MIT denies that it knew or should have known that the residents of East Campus "kept a canister of nitrous oxide, sometimes referred to as 'the dorm bottle' of nitrous oxide at the dormitory."

MIT also denies the Guys' lawsuit that it did not take "reasonable steps" to secure canisters of nitrous oxide used for "valid scientific purposes," allowing "unauthorized persons, including students and employees, to have access to the dangerous gas and to use it as an intoxicant."

Lawsuit, Page 14

Setec Astronomy Wins French Armada's Mystery Hunt, Sixty-Eight Hour Hunt Longest Game in Recent Memory

By Marissa Vogt
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The 25th annual IAP Mystery Hunt began at noon this past Friday in Lobby 7, inspired by the movie

Reporter's Notebook

"Time B and bits." The hunt kicked off with a Pirate-themed skit. Each team was given a skull made of plaster of Paris and a map that we would later find out was the "Map of All Space and Time."

The hunt was run by the French Armada, the East Campus-based team that won last year's hunt. Setec Astronomy, a team of MIT alumni and professional puzzle solvers, found the coin, the perennial final goal of the hunt, at 8:23 a.m. on Monday morning, thus winning the hunt and the right to create next year's hunt. At just over 68 hours, this hunt was the longest on record.

Action Before Thought

My team, Action Before Thought, was a medium-sized team mostly comprised of residents of Third West of East Campus. We

collected our laptops and gathered in our dorm lounge shortly after noon on Friday to begin working on the first round of puzzles.

Less than a day into the hunt our lounge began to resemble a disaster area, with papers strewn about and laptop cords monopolizing the right

of way.

After a while we established

Mystery Hunt, Page 13



JAY S. GILL

Members of the Mystery Hunt team "Action Before Thought" solve puzzles in their headquarters, located in the lounge on Third West in East Campus. This year's hunt was won by "Setec Astronomy" and was the longest on record.

MIT Responds To 'Tupac' Allegations

By Waseem S. Daher
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

MIT responded last Thursday to a subpoena from Paramount Pictures asking who was responsible for a computer at the Civil and Environmental Engineering headquarters that allegedly distributed an illegal copy of the film "Tupac: Resurrection" at 1:40 a.m. on Dec. 4.

The Institute did not make its response available. But it appears likely that MIT told Paramount of what seems to be the most plausible explanation for the late-night file-trading: that no one at MIT should be held responsible, because the computer, running Microsoft Windows 2000, appears to have been infected with a virus and operated remotely.

"We believe the computer was compromised," said Ann M. Hamersla, the senior counsel for intellectual property. "We did respond as we were supposed to." She declined to comment further.

FEATURES

A chronicle of a desperate man's last minutes with the goddess Athena.

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SPORTS

Brian Chase finally learns not to doubt the Patriots. See what he predicts for the Super Bowl.

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WORLD & NATION

U.S. Claims Raid Killed Militants, Not Civilians

THE NEW YORK TIMES

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

U.S. military officials said on Tuesday that a raid over the weekend in southern Afghanistan had killed only 5 Taliban militants, not 11 civilians, as Afghan officials have reported.

But Abdul Rahman, the chief of the Char Chino district in Oruzgan Province, where the incident took place, said again on Tuesday that 11 civilians had been killed, including three women and four children.

"I collected the bodies with people and I also participated in their funeral ceremony," he said by telephone. "If the Americans think those four men who were our friends, those four children and three women were the Taliban, that is something not acceptable."

But Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty, a spokesman for the U.S.-led coalition, said at a news conference on Tuesday that coalition forces had engaged "five armed adult males fleeing from a known terrorist compound" after receiving intelligence on Saturday evening about a gathering of midlevel Taliban fighters.

Pakistan Bans Nuclear Scientists From Traveling Outside Country

THE NEW YORK TIMES

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

Pakistan on Tuesday barred all scientists working on its nuclear weapons program from leaving the country, as the government intensified its inquiry into allegations that nuclear technology had been shared with Iran.

At the same time, a senior intelligence official said a former army commander had approved the transfer of technology to Iran.

The official said the scientist who had led the effort to build an atomic bomb, Abdul Qadeer Khan, had told investigators that any sharing of nuclear technology with Iran had the approval of Gen. Mirza Aslam Beg, the commander of Pakistan's army from 1988 to 1991. The official said aides to Khan had told investigators the same thing.

U.S. Group Says North Koreans Are Eager to Deal With West

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The leader of an unofficial U.S. delegation that visited North Korea this month said on Tuesday that North Korea seemed anxious to resolve differences with the United States over its nuclear program.

North Korean officials told the delegation that the Bush administration's central concern, complete and verifiable dismantlement of their nuclear weapons program, was within reach, said John W. Lewis, the group's leader, in a telephone interview.

He spoke a day before another member of the group, Siegfried Hecker, a former director of the Los Alamos Laboratory in New Mexico, is scheduled to tell the Senate of his conclusions about the state of the nuclear complex in Yongbyon that was the focus of the group's visit.

Lewis, a professor emeritus of Chinese politics at Stanford, is the founder of the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford, which seeks to influence policy by engaging foreign officials and citizens on a second track, independent of the U.S. government. In this case, he led a delegation of civilian experts to North Korea, in advance of a delayed second round of six-nation talks to try to defuse the threat that North Korea might be building nuclear weapons.

Bush Vows to Privatize Social Security and Keep Tax Cuts

By Edmund L. Andrews

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

President Bush hinted at big plans on Tuesday about overhauling Social Security and reiterated demands to make the last rounds of tax cuts permanent, but he made only fleeting references to new initiatives.

Alluding to his oft-stated goal of privatizing Social Security, Bush said that "younger workers should have the opportunity to build a nest egg by saving part of their Social Security taxes in a personal retirement account."

But Bush is not expected to propose an immediate shift away from Social Security in his pending budget proposal. Rather, administration officials say they plan to recycle a proposal from last year to greatly expand tax-advantaged savings accounts.

Bush's limited agenda reflects the pressure he is under, from conservative Republicans as well as Democrats, to rein in a budget deficit that could approach \$500 billion this year.

Though Bush demanded that Congress make last year's tax cuts permanent, he repeated recent pledges to reduce the deficit by half over the next five years and hold the growth in discretionary spending to 4 percent a year.

The administration's proposals for big new tax-advantaged savings plans — one for retirement, another for savings for any purpose — have the virtue of allowing Bush to think big without spending much money, at least over the next few years.

People would still have to pay taxes on the money they contribute, but not on any of the investment income that accrues after that. Besides allowing people to set aside more money than before, the proposal would allow people to withdraw money from the "lifetime" accounts whenever they want and for whatever purpose.

The problem, some economists say, is that the proposals would do little in themselves to solve the basic long-term problem of Social Security, which is that the so-called trust fund faces eventual insolvency as the nation's 75 million baby-boomers reach retirement age over the next several decades.

And over the longer term, they say, the proposed savings accounts could cost tens of billions of dollars a year as more and more of the nation's investment income became entirely shielded from taxation.

Many experts, Republican and Democratic, predict that Bush will

make only limited progress on major tax initiatives this year.

Making the tax cuts permanent would cost more than \$1 trillion over the next decade, according to estimates last summer by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, and none of the recent tax cuts expire in the next year.

"I don't see them pushing on anything hard except possibly a half-hearted effort to make the tax cuts permanent," said Bruce Bartlett, a longtime Republican tax expert who is a senior fellow at the National Center for Policy Analysis, a policy research group.

Economists at the Brookings Institution estimated that, 25 years from now, the new savings accounts could cost the U.S. Treasury \$50 billion a year in lost tax revenue.

Under the proposals first put forward one year ago, a married couple would have been able to set aside up to \$15,000 a year in a "lifetime savings account" and as much as \$15,000 more in the "retirement" accounts.

Last year, congressional Republicans convinced the White House to back away from both proposals, largely because they were trying to push Bush's big tax-cutting plan at the time.

Dean's Concession to Kerry's Iowa Victory Raises Eyebrows

By Jim Rutenberg

THE NEW YORK TIMES

DES MOINES, IOWA

Sen. John Kerry's victory in Iowa took the political world by surprise, but it was Howard Dean's guttural, concession-speech battle cry that was as much the talk of the political world on Tuesday.

The question that bounced around television, radio, the Internet and even the Des Moines airport — overstuffed with departing journalists and political operatives Tuesday morning — was whether the speech would prove a defining political moment for Dean just as voters start paying close attention to the Democratic race.

"He looked hysterical," Howard Wolfson, a Democratic consultant

said on the "NBC Nightly News."

"Howard Dean scared a lot of children last night," Tucker Carlson, a Republican political commentator, declared on CNN. Like the other cable news networks, CNN played the image of Dean, shirt sleeves rolled up, neck bulging and arm pointing at the crowd, over and over. The radio host Howard Stern played a recording of the tape and set it against background noise from a professional wrestling match.

Republican officials could not have been happier. "That's six ads," one party official said, referring playfully to the number of advertisements that might be mined from that appearance in order to reinforce opponents' efforts to portray Dean as angry and nonpresidential.

Even some of Dean's supporters wondered how the speech would affect the race.

Dan Goldberg, a marketing executive with an independent film company in New York, said he had been planning to volunteer for Dean in New Hampshire. After watching his Monday night speech, Goldberg said, he changed his mind.

"Any chances I would vote for Dean were completely erased by that speech last night — scary," he said. "I thought mirrors in my apartment would shatter. Especially in contrast with Edwards, who was fantastic."

Dean and his staff described the focus on his speech as another instance of unfair treatment at the hands of the news media.

WEATHER

Arctic January

By Robert Lindsay Korty

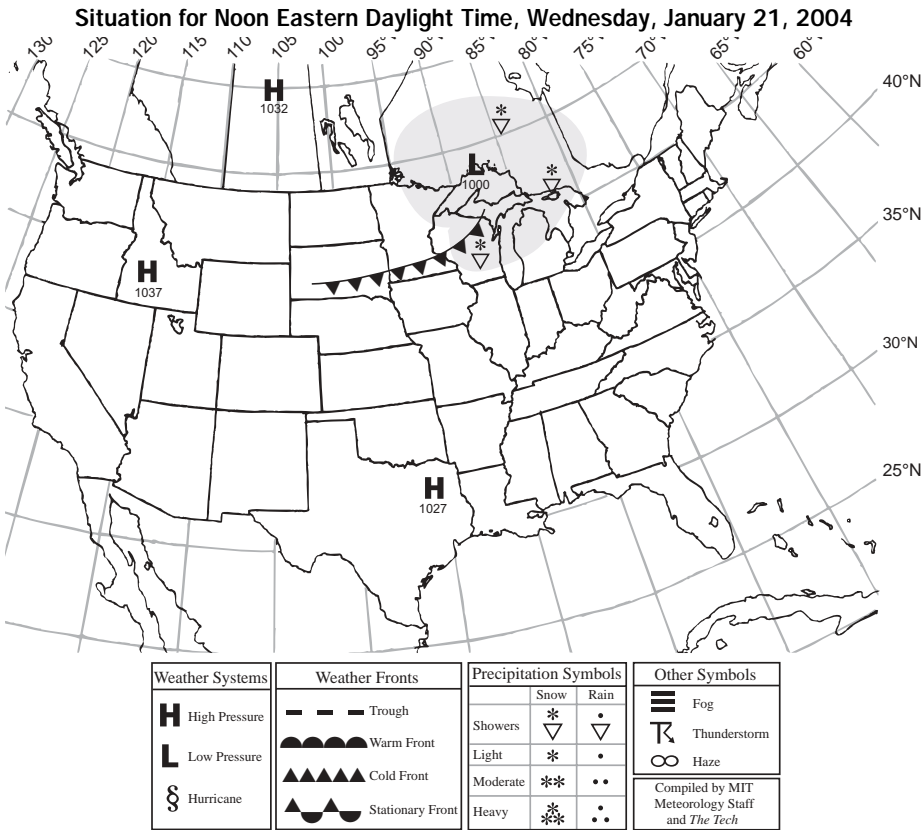
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

With above normal temperatures continuing over the Pacific, bursts of cold air continue to shoot southward from the North Pole across eastern Canada and the northeastern United States. The large-scale pattern has been consistent for the past several weeks, sending bouts of record-breaking cold south to New England. Temperatures will remain below normal this week with another surge of Arctic air arriving by this weekend. The airmass moving toward the Northeast for this weekend does not look to be as severely cold as recent outbreaks have been, however.

Since these polar airmasses have been in place, there has been relatively little snowfall. Boston is still above normal for the season, owing to the mammoth event that fell in early December, but totals for this month are behind normal levels for January. With strong, Arctic high pressure in place, storms have been shunted south or to sea. A few weak, fast-moving storms (called "Alberta clippers" after the province in which they usually form) have breezed across the Canadian border, and another may bring a quick inch or so of snow on Thursday.

Extended Forecast

Today: Sunny and windy. High 25°F (-4°C).
Tonight: Becoming cloudy, with a low near 17°F (-8°C).
Thursday: Scattered snow flurries, high 32°F (0°C).
Friday: Sunny but windy and colder. High 22°F (-6°C), low 10°F (-12°C).



Scientists Encounter Bumps Rover Explores Martian Land

By Beth Daley
THE BOSTON GLOBE

PASADENA

The room went wild when Spirit hit the Martian dirt. With six wheels on the blush-colored surface Thursday morning, scientists at mission control here traded high fives and hugs.

But there was still trouble ahead: No one could agree where it should go next.

Chief scientist Steve Squyres wanted the rover to investigate a pyramid-shaped rock nearby. Some geologists had their hearts set on a far-off crater. And the mission's engineers wanted the rover to stay put so they could test its instruments for three days.

After three painstaking years of

building, launching, and precisely landing the spacecraft in Gusev Crater, the rest of the \$410 million rover's itinerary is a blank page. And with Spirit's life span expected to be just a few months, each decision is loaded with urgency.

"Where we are going is a fundamental question, and it can get emotional," said John Grotzinger, 46, an MIT sedimentologist helping to figure out where the rover should go.

In NASA's ambitious new quest to find signs of past water on the Red Planet, control of the vehicle now largely rests with a 50-member science team at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. The team includes geologists, soil analysts, and others — each of them a specialist who sees Spirit as

key to unlocking a different part of the Mars mystery.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has established a few rules of the road. Spirit should travel at least 1,000 feet during its mission. It should visit at least four "localities," although scientists aren't exactly sure what constitutes a locality. But those guidelines leave most of the mission up in the air. Going to a distant cluster of rocks may reveal round boulders put there by rivers. Checking out the lip of a crater may show layers of sediment that could point to liquid water. And in the simplest nearby rocks, minerals could show they were formed in the presence of water.

Study Finds No Foolproof Way to Contain Altered Genes From Wild

By Andrew Pollack
THE NEW YORK TIMES

A new report commissioned by the government suggests that it will be difficult to completely prevent genetically engineered plants and animals from having unintended environmental and public health effects.

The report, released Tuesday by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences, says that while there are many techniques being developed to prevent genetically engineered organisms or their genes from escaping into the wild, most are still premature and none appear to be completely effective.

Companies and scientists are developing a wide range of geneti-

cally modified organisms: salmon that grow superfast, mosquitoes engineered not to transmit malaria, corn that produces pharmaceuticals and industrial chemicals.

One concern about these transgenic products is that their genes or the organisms could spread. Fast-growing fish, if they were to escape into the wild, might beat out regular salmon for food or mates, disrupting the ecological balance. Genes giving crops resistance to herbicides or insects might spread to weeds, making the weeds harder to eradicate. Pollen flow from corn engineered to produce a drug could allow the drug to get into corn destined for the food supply.

Much of the efforts to prevent

these effects have involved physical containment, like growing fish in tanks rather than the ocean or growing crops in greenhouses.

The new report, commissioned by the Department of Agriculture, looks at biological methods of containment, which it calls bioconfinement. These include measures like inducing sterility by giving fish an extra set of chromosomes or exposing insects to radiation. Bacteria might be given "suicide genes" that would cause them to self-destruct if they escaped. Crop scientists are working on a variety of techniques, including putting the foreign genes into the chloroplasts rather than the nucleus because chloroplast genes usually do not get into the pollen.

China Reports Annual Economic Growth of Nine Percent

THE NEW YORK TIMES

HONG KONG

China's economy grew a torrid 9.1 percent last year and prices accelerated, Chinese officials said on Tuesday, but they denied that the country's economy was overheating.

The National Bureau of Statistics said that economic output jumped 9.9 percent in the fourth quarter from a year earlier. Joan Zheng, an economist at J.P. Morgan Chase, noted that the Chinese agency appeared to have revised upward its figures for year-to-year growth in the first and third quarters as well, to 9.9 percent and 9.6 percent.

Li Deshui, the director of the statistics agency, said at a news conference in Beijing that last year's growth was the fastest since 1997, and predicted that the economy would grow more than 7 percent this year.

Li calculated that China had become a large consumer of raw materials, taking in 30 percent of the world's coal production last year, 36 percent of the world's steel and 55 percent of the world's cement, and acknowledged that prices for steel and cement were on the rise.

Court Ruling Has Provincetown Gearing Up for Same-Sex Marriages

THE NEW YORK TIMES

PROVINCETOWN, MASS.

After the tourists and the drag queens disappear for the winter, the pace of this Cape Cod village most years slows to a small-town lull. But on a recent afternoon, Dave Schermacher, a caterer here, stared down at a to-do list that spilled over two pages. Schermacher, who runs PTown Parties, had been busy since 6:30 a.m., already preparing for nine weddings next summer and fall.

"It's off the wall," he said, pouring a mug of half-decaf coffee (the real thing gets him too wired). "I have nine weddings to prepare menus for. I'm building a Web site and revamping my brochures. And I have to reserve chairs, glasses, dishes and silver now, or they'll be all booked up."

Since Massachusetts' highest court ruled in November that gay couples have a right to marry under the state Constitution, Provincetown — a clamorous beach community known for its gay-friendly atmosphere and night life — has been gearing up for an unlikely windfall: the wedding business. Already one inn, the Fairbanks, is offering a \$195 “Pop the Question” special.

The court gave the state legislature 180 days to make provisions for same-sex couples, which some legal experts say may turn out to be civil unions, as in Vermont, rather than standard marriages.

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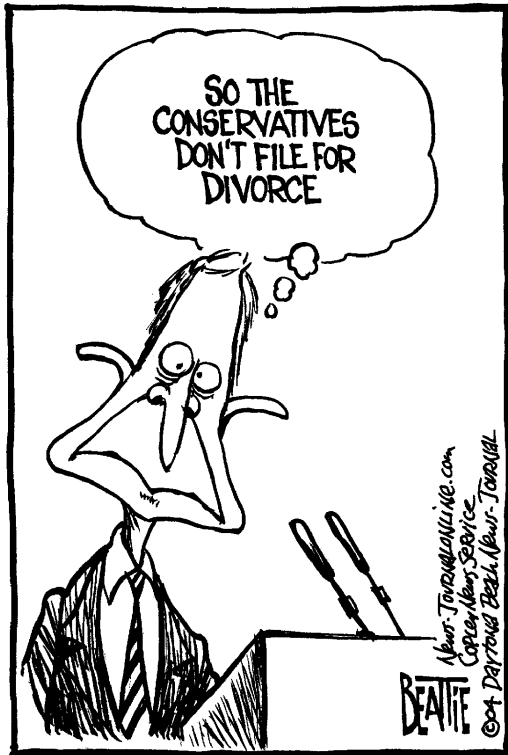
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“And another part of my plea bargain . . . I'd rather not share the same cell with any of the investors I defrauded.”



Letter To The Editor

Fair Criticism?

To the Editor:

I found the recent article “Hardly Better Than Karaoke” by Devdoot Majumdar (Jan. 14) to be unnecessarily ruthless and offensive. As a student publication, the responsibility of *The Tech* is to provide fair, unbiased coverage of campus-wide events and issues. This article failed to accomplish this simple goal, and in doing so continued and perpetuated a tradition of poor reporting in *The Tech*.

While this article served as a review of the Logs concert, it took its mission of bringing the author’s opinion to the public too far. Mr. Majumdar is entitled to his opinion, but the articles he writes for general consumption must fairly critique the subject. From the start, Mr. Majumdar set on a course to humiliate the Logs and their efforts. The opening paragraph, ostensibly describing the peak of Logs talent, describes Logs members as possessing “self-

aggrandized splendor.” This clearly derisive comment indicates that Mr. Majumdar has never been a fan of the Logs as people, and makes no mention of the Logs’ music. If Mr. Majumdar possesses this bias against the Logs, why was he chosen to write this article? Furthermore, why were his personal biases taken into account and why was this article published? Their personalities have nothing to do with their music, so why was this comment not edited out?

This is not to say that the Logs’ performance was perfect. They made mistakes, as was clear to everyone at the concert. Like any performance group that has stumbled, it is only fair that their mistakes are brought to public attention — that is the purpose of a review. This review, however, took criticism a step too far, and brought in personal biases that were better left out of a news publication. Perhaps *The Tech* should take more care in assigning articles to biased reporters, and

in reviewing these articles before publication.

Lindsay Kuo '06

Errata

The Jan. 7 front page inset photo of the Wright Flyer hack was mistakenly credited to photographer Frank Dabek. The photo was taken by Brian Hemond.

A Jan. 14 article [“MIT Lawyers to Respond To Subpoena Over *Tupac*”] misstated the location of a computer allegedly used for copyright infringement. It is in 1-290 (the Civil and Environmental Engineering headquarters), not 2-190 (a lecture hall).

Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, opinion editors, a senior editor, and a photography editor.

Dissents are the opinions of signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors’ signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters

will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

The Tech’s Ombudsman, reachable by e-mail at ombudsman@the-tech.mit.edu, serves as the liaison between *The Tech* and its readers. From time to time, the Ombudsman writes an independent column reflecting the complaints, questions, and concerns of the readership.

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Contradiction and Idiocy

Ken Nesmith

I have very mixed feelings about President Bush. He does appear to have an honest commitment to respectable values and ideals, and seems less conniving and calculating than the usual politician, even if it may be for lack of ability. It’s hard, though, to afford him too much admiration and respect.

A recent interview of his, with a BBC reporter just before he visited London last year, made one of his weaknesses particularly visible. As he worked to do the traditional interviewee’s job of finding a way to reshape the questions such that he could use his prewritten answers, one could almost hear his advisers coaching him hours earlier, reminding him to stay “on message” and deliver the right catch phrases. He would interrupt himself midway through responses to insert sound-bite-able lines, as if clumsily remembering the appropriate item to deliver on a particular topic. Spinning through a question about progress in Iraq, he stopped himself mid-sentence to plug one of his favorite lines: “Freedom is not America’s gift to the world, it’s the Almighty’s gift to mankind.” Certainly, it’s a nice line, suggesting inalienable, individual human rights. Plenty of other less dramatic ones popped up alongside it, about “revisionist history” in Iraq and so forth.

Bush is often compared to Ronald Reagan both in terms of style and policies; here, I was reminded of Reagan’s tactic of doing focus-group testing on certain lines for his speeches, and coming away from those tests with gems about our nation’s undying love of freedom, the communist evil empire, and so forth. Bush’s lines appeared crafted with similar planning, and his discernible awkwardness in forcing them into his responses was grating.

But then, Bush has never been renowned for his oratorical mastery. His prewritten speeches go well enough, but his penchant for mangling even simple sentences has spawned a small industry of Bushism novelty books and desk calendars. The contention of his strongest supporters has always been that he’s much sharper than he appears, and that he has a driving curiosity with which he grills advisers on each policy issue. I was always sort of skeptical about that, after watching him speak a few times. Such a wide disconnect between public and private ability and behavior didn’t

seem likely. Former Treasury Secretary Paul O’Neill recently released a book detailing his time in the Bush White House, and he gives a damning portrayal of Bush as an intellectually lazy, incurious oaf, if a friendly one — more or less exactly what you’d expect from watching him speak. (O’Neill also claims that Bush is led by advisers more sensitive to polling than any he’s ever seen, a well-supported assertion which makes the complaints of Clinton’s detractors, that Clinton’s was a milque-toasty poll-driven administration, laughable.)

The administration’s internal mechanics aside, I’m ambivalent about the policies that have emerged from it. Bush has done a nice job of letting people keep more of what they own. Reducing taxes on income and capital gains has allowed the economy to function more freely, letting people do the work they like and trade as they see fit without making as large an involuntary contribution to the government. Although far too great a part of the economy’s fluctuations are attributed to the leaders who sit in office while boom or bust happens around them (witness those who give Clinton undeserved credit for the 90s boom), the last few quarters of extraordinary economic growth have been encouraging. Forecasts predict continued growth, soon to be joined by attendant job growth; this resurgence contributes nicely to what many say is a world-wide economic recovery. His program to allow immigrants to work should be welcome to all.

I likewise have few serious problems with Bush’s foreign policy. The war in Iraq has drastically improved the long-term outlook for the Middle East. The construction of a thriving, functional Iraq is underway at a remarkable pace, and will accelerate as quickly as suicidal rebels with no apparent goal but destruction and death allow it to. There are encouraging signs of foment in Iran, dictators are volunteering to abandon WMD programs, and Bush has dealt with North Korea as well as can be done. Only time will tell if any good can emerge from that hellish scenario; an end to accommodation of an unthinkable terrible regime was a necessary precursor to serious confrontation and resolution of that problem.

But if we continue this short and incomplete survey of the administration’s policies, we run into an interesting mess that deserves attention. Bush has done a fine job cutting taxes. That’s step 1 in reducing the intrusive, parasitic role of government. Step 2 is actually reducing that

role — if not by shrugging off inappropriate social responsibilities such as taxpayer-sponsored venture capitalism or marriage counseling, then by at least limiting their growth to a rate less than that of national economic growth, so that government becomes a proportionally smaller drag on the nation’s economy. What have Bush and this Republican Congress done? Expanded government wherever possible. Federal spending has skyrocketed, even leaving aside extra spending for Iraq, Afghanistan, and homeland security. Without even accounting for defense and entitlement spending, Bush has raised federal outlays 21 percent in three years (versus a .7 percent decrease in Clinton’s first three years). Education spending has risen 60 percent since 2000; transportation spending has risen by half. Labor department spending is up 61 percent, health and human services, 20 percent. (These numbers are from Andrew Sullivan in The New Republic.)

There we have it, contradiction and idiocy in practice. Although it’s discouraging, we can at least take a small chuckle away from the whole scenario. Look again at those increases: Bush is dumping money into education, transportation, the labor department, and now, health care, via an unthinkable expensive prescription drug program, designed to buy cutting edge drugs for whoever needs them. Should he not be the best friend of every liberal in America? Every time a Bush opponent laments that he’s helped the military and the wealthy at the expense of the homeless, schoolchildren, old people, the middle class, the lower class, the environment, the sick, minorities and other people and things in the country, you have to wonder if they noticed that he’s spending more on liberal causes than anyone, ever. Anyone who increases government spending this much should be every liberal’s best friend.

But that’s only a small side note to an unfortunate situation. We college kids will be paying off this spending throughout our lifetimes. Democrats are hopelessly fiscally irresponsible — all candidates want to further expand spending and raise taxes; Bush, unless he suddenly remembers all of those things he used to say about smaller government, appears to be hopeless. I suppose it’s a silly question, but where are the honest, responsible politicians? That’s not a joke; I’d like to think there’s some answer to that question other than cynical sarcasm.

The Long And Winding Road

Andrew C. Thomas

Normally, these sorts of columns wait until the last issue that a graduating senior can submit to, but three events have made me want to reflect on my time at MIT right away. First, next week will be my last as this newspaper’s opinion editor, so I won’t have the chance to read any delightful reader mail unless I hack into the Letters to the Editor account. Second, I’m saving a few grand and graduating early, though I’ll still be putzing around until June and probably still writing for this page. And third, I’m writing this on a holiday Monday and I have little else to do but think back. Of course, this sort of reminiscing always makes me reduce things to quotes or glib remarks. Take one with you and pass it on, and I’ll be satisfied.

“There’s always a bigger fish.”

I imagine that every MIT graduate travels the same path, from a feeling of obstinate courage to one of utter defeat and humiliation — and that’s just in freshman year. Most students come here from the very tops of their classes only to find themselves in the middle of the pack, and most of them did it without work-

I imagine that every MIT graduate travels the same path, from a feeling of obstinate courage to one of utter defeat and humiliation — and that’s just in freshman year

ing very hard. It’s one of the most difficult transitions for anyone to make, but also one of the most necessary for those who coast on raw talent. Don’t kill yourself to be first in your class any more — it’s not going to happen, kids.

“The rose goes in the front, big boy.”

A little knowledge is a dangerous thing. Confidence and arrogance alone cannot do the job. Patience is often in short supply here — the abuse of pass/no record to take high level courses at a minimum penalty is but one symptom of that. Not like this will make a difference to anyone reading this, since I can’t stop that particular problem for a single student here, but please, don’t be in too much of a rush. Don’t cram six courses into your schedule and take only 50 percent out of each one.

“Some days, even my lucky rocketship underpants don’t work.”

We’ve all pulled all-nighters, some have pulled all-weekers. There will always be those times when you worked hard to polish off an assignment and didn’t do as well as you hoped — leading you to question why you tried so hard in the first place. Remember, no matter how trite it sounds, it really is about how you play the game.

“Here’s looking at you, kid.”

Man, this place is ugly. Ugly, but lovable, like the sweetheart kid down the street who’ll bring you flowers but whom you’ll jilt for the muscled jerk who calls you “cutie.” (Ahem.) Maybe it’ll take me 25 or 50 years to appreciate the beauty architect Steven Holl sees in Simmons Hall, like the troubles Picasso and other great artists had when their new creations were displayed. They broke traditional values in their art, and Frank Gehry continues to with the upcoming unveiling of the jewel in the new architectural crown. Still, I don’t see it happening, and you can hold me to it. At least when Baker came out, they didn’t ask why they had to go down and then up to get to another room on the same floor, or complain about the view.

“I love kung fu.”

I tried to come up with a good quote from the cult favorite Office Space that might be context appropriate, but for the need to come up with one suitable for the eyes of children, the best I could do is this one. Appreciate the slightly absurd in life. We all need to relax once in a while, no matter how big the thrill you get from keeping your pedal to the floor. Stay off the chocolate covered espresso beans and the Red Bull and have a glass of warm milk at least once a semester.

Be seeing you.

Can Spam? Not

W. Victoria Lee

Last time I checked, I am not in “massive debt,” I am not tense enough to need “soma,” I haven’t eaten enough junk food to need to lose 10 pounds in one week, and most certainly I don’t need to increase the size of my you-know-what. But I keep getting e-mails that try to convince me that I “can be without all that debt,” as if money would fall from the sky, and that I can “triple my size overnight,” despite my lack of that particular anatomical structure altogether.

Let’s face it. Spam is annoying and someone should stop it. Apparently my daily prayers and complaints have been answered because last month our President signed the first federal law to regulate spam, to go into effect at the beginning of this year. This action seems to call for applause. But judging from the unmitigated junk mails that continue to inundate our mailboxes, there’s no need to be excited after all.

The act was officially termed the “Controlling the Assault of Non-Solicited Pornography and Marketing Act of 2003”, or the “CAN-SPAM Act” for short. Not a very fitting name. In fact, the name of the act seems to encourage more spamming. And what it does isn’t very impressive, either. It stipulates that spammers must clearly address the commercial purpose of their e-mails. Consider the fact

that most spammers are already multiple law violators (fraud, for instance), labeling their messages seems to be the only guideline (or any guideline for that matter) that they followed. After all, it is not that difficult to get the gist of subtle subject headlines such as “instant hard-rock,” “double the pleasure,” or “be freed today.”

The law also requires the spammers to include an “opt-out feature” meaning you can actually tell the unsolicited e-mail marketers that you don’t need potency medications or pre-approved credit cards, ever. Wait, am I just silly or am I not understanding it right? People actually want to be spammed? Who in their right mind wants to see the “before & after” photos of Betty Sue, who had an excellent result with XXX brand meal plans?

But in a world where being spammed is the default, some options are better than none. Yet when you could spend a major portion of your precious time politely refusing these unwanted offers, a simple click of the “delete” button appears much more efficient. And the spammers won’t know that you actually don’t need that third mortgage or those fast-working diet pills and keep feeding your mailbox more info on their “once-in-a-lifetime” offers.

Cynics like me think of the law as a legal excuse for spammers to annoy you some more. Now as long as they made clear in the subject line that they are selling some famous tycoon’s daughter’s home video for only \$19.99, and

they include the opt-out feature so you can tell them you don’t need it because you’ve already seen it on the Internet for free, it is more legal than before for them to spam away.

Let’s admit it. The brand spanking new anti-spam law isn’t perfect. In fact, many argue that such a stipulation can potentially harm legitimate businesses that send out discount offers or monthly newsletters to their customers via e-mail. And most states have their own versions of the anti-spam law and the majority of these revolve around similar concepts of labeling and the “opt-out” feature (with the exception of few states with the “opt-in” feature). The fact that few have seen positive results with these state laws makes one question what good the federal law will do.

The truth is that this law introduces “new criminal penalties to assist in deterring the most offensive forms of spam” such as when you open an e-mail entitled “discount books” and X-rated pictures pop up on the screen. More importantly, this bill is only the beginning of the struggle between the mutilated spam victims versus the anonymous and hard-to-track-down spammers. As Federal Trade Commission Chair Tim Muris put it, “the solution [to the spam problem] will require technology, self-help, and enforcement.” In the meantime, just don’t reply to spam e-mails, keep setting up e-mail filters, and keep working that index finger and hitting those delete buttons.

The Ombudsman

John A. Hawkinson

In this column

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- PDFs of issuespage 5
- Crime and Dong Munpage 6
- Stories buried deep insidepage 6

Ombudserratum

My column in last week’s issue (Jan. 14) claimed three letters had not been published, and listed them. The second listing, “a response to the Nov. 21 complaint about the Virgin Mobile ad,” was wrong — that letter was indeed printed, in issue 59 (Nov. 25), under the title “Gender Bias.” The author was Dave Lahr G.

(It would be funny to claim I missed the publication of the letter because there is no

HTML version on the Web, but that’s not the reason.)

PDFs of issues

Last week, I mentioned some issues were available in PDF form. Unfortunately, when the HTML versions of issues have gone up, the PDF versions have mostly disappeared. They are still online at <http://www-tech.mit.edu/V123/PDF> (I was able to find this by

PDFs Rule; Did We Ask Smart Questions About Mun?

Ombudsman, from Page 5

guessing */V123* and choosing *PDF* from the directory listing). I've asked the technology department why that's not linked to from anywhere useful, but they have not responded.

It's somewhat sobering to think that the question of PDFs has generated the most e-mail from readers on a single topic in my seven months as Ombudsman: four people sent me mail (one is a staff photographer, not just a reader). All four were in favor of PDFs, to the exclusion of the HTML version. Whoa! (I would have expected the peak of communication to me to be over a journalistic issue, not a technical one.)

Two of the four independently suggested that we should have thumbnail images of the front page available, and one suggested that PDFs of the individual articles should be available as well.

The arguments in favor seem to be that PDFs:

- are prettier than HTML;
- accurately reflects the layout of the newspaper (archival value);
- do not omit tables, infographics, or special formatting;
- can go up on the Web faster than the HTML versions.

I haven't seen any arguments against providing both formats, though PDFs of the entire paper may be difficult to provide when some material in the printed edition is not licensed for online distribution.

Crime and Dong Mun

I was pretty pleased with the news content in last week's issue. Outgoing photography editor Jonathan Wang wrote a good news story on crime. In particular, I was pleased that he talked to MIT Police Chief John DiFava and got useful quotations, especially compared with past police coverage.

For example, in the recent articles about missing MIT student Daniel "Dong" S. Mun '05, I thought the news department didn't do a good job of interviewing the MIT police. The original Dec. 9 article ["Student Missing Since Friday"] said the MIT police "could provide no update," and the followup Jan. 7 article ["MIT Student Remains Missing"] said Deputy Chief John Driscoll

"referred questions about the investigation to [MIT spokesman Arthur L.] Jones." In both cases, I thought a comment from DiFava would have helped, but the news department didn't seem to follow through.

If you're wondering what has happened to Mun, you're not the only one. The Jan. 7 article quotes Jones saying "Everything is ongoing" and says that he says the search "includes periodically checking the river and its banks." What does "periodically" mean? The next paragraph says Dean Robert M. Randolph "thinks the checks will be done weekly," which is decidedly uncertain. Is there really any hope at all?

I was also puzzled by the quote from Randolph in the Dec. 17 article in *The Boston Globe* ["Friends, police search for missing MIT student," by Marcella Bombardieri]: "There are indications he could have harmed himself." That seemed pretty alarming, especially when coupled with initial rumors from a widely circulated Dec. 6 e-mail that "He was pretty drunk when he left the house." (I asked the author of that e-mail on Monday, and he said he wasn't sure it was true but wrote that "so people would take it more seriously," and that he didn't remember where the information came from.)

The Jan 7. article says that when Randolph was "asked about his comment" by the *Globe*, that "he said that it was not clear what Mun might have done, and that he would not discuss the matter in more detail for privacy reasons."

I asked Randolph to resolve the confusion, and he said (referring to Mun), "He sent a message to his family indicating he was going to do something, but it's not clear what in fact he was going to do. Subsequent information has not made it any clearer."

Stories buried deep inside the last issue

Pages 13 and 14 reprinted two articles from *The Boston Globe* about MIT. Looking at them, you might think that they were run there just to fill space, but actually they ran because the interim IAP news director Keith J. Winstein felt they were relevant.

The Tech doesn't do a good job of telling readers about stories that are buried deep inside the paper, and should improve. The

World & Nation, Opinion, Fun, and Sports sections all appear in distinctive places and can easily be found. The news articles on the front page are easy to find. Other content does not have it so easy.

The remaining news, features, and arts articles have to vie for a reference in one of the three positions at the bottom of the front page (called "inside boxes"), one of which is reserved for comics (why bother?). That's great if there are only two such articles, but problematic otherwise.

In last week's issue, the left inside box led to one of three arts stories (all on the same spread), and the right led to the sports section. There was no front page mention of the two *Globe* stories, and I suspect many *Tech* readers missed them.

Perhaps *The Tech* needs to rethink its inside boxes. On Jan. 12, *The Harvard Crimson* launched their redesign. According to the article, the *Crimson* has: "three inside story teasers above the masthead [to] direct readers' attention to important or interesting stories," "section teasers on the front page [to] provide information about inside sections and their major stories," "inside coverage

boxes [to] alert readers to related coverage elsewhere within the paper," and "an improved index box ... across the bottom of the page" (see "Crimson Goes Color" by Zachary M. Seward, <http://www.thecrimson.com/article.aspx?ref=357029>).

Let's take a page from the *Crimson* and add more kinds of inside boxes.

The Tech's Ombudsman welcomes your feedback, to ombudsman@the-tech.mit.edu. His opinions are his own.



COURTESY THE HARVARD CRIMSON

The Harvard Crimson's redesigned front page debuted Jan. 12, 2004. It shows interior content in four ways: inside story teasers, section teasers, inside coverage boxes, and an index box.

Got an opinion?

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January 21,
2004

COMICS

The
Tech

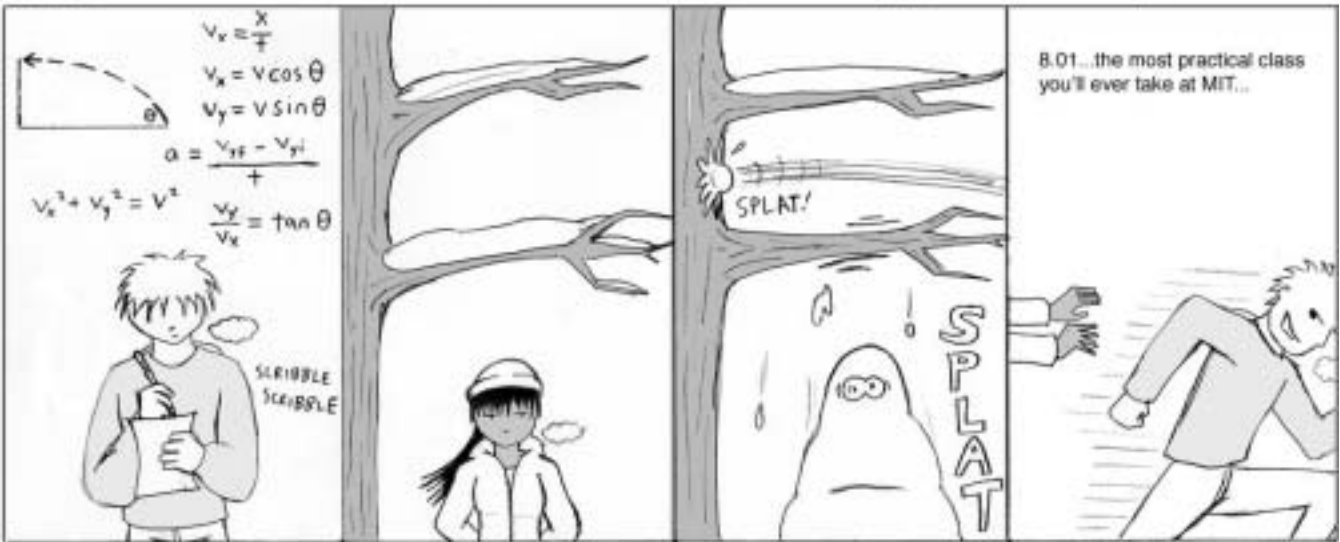
FUN

Page
7

PAGES

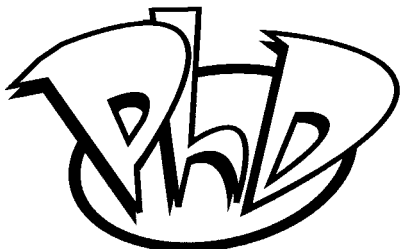
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MIT EGG Video Game Character Poll: mitegg.proboards20.com/index.cgi

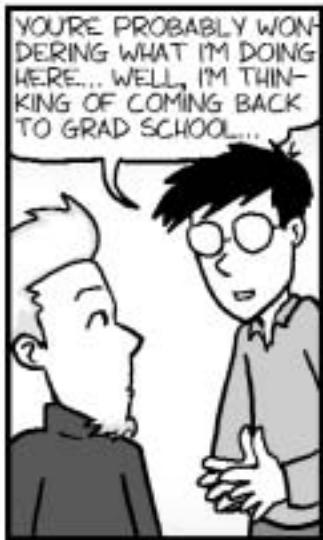


TRIO

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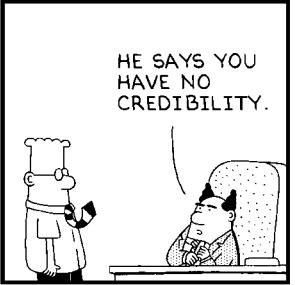
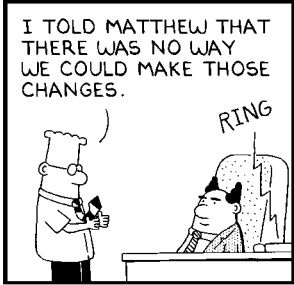
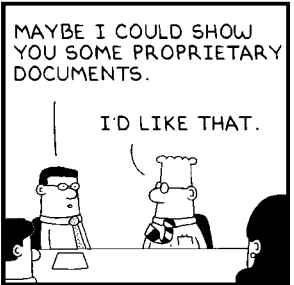
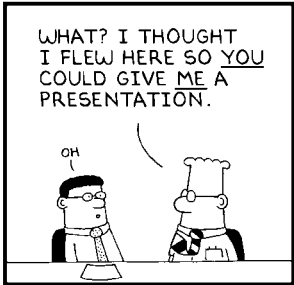
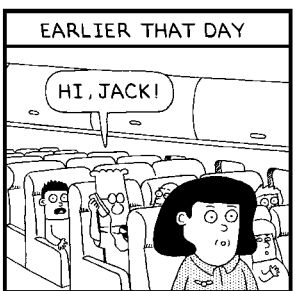
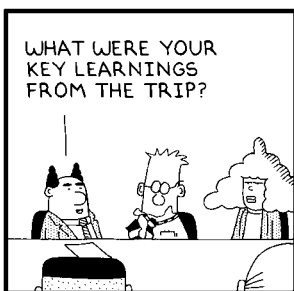
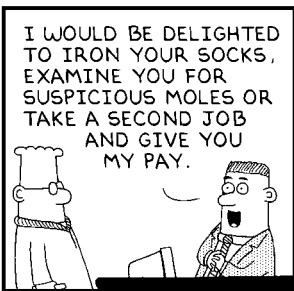
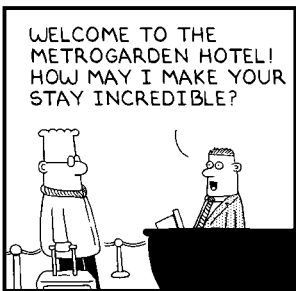
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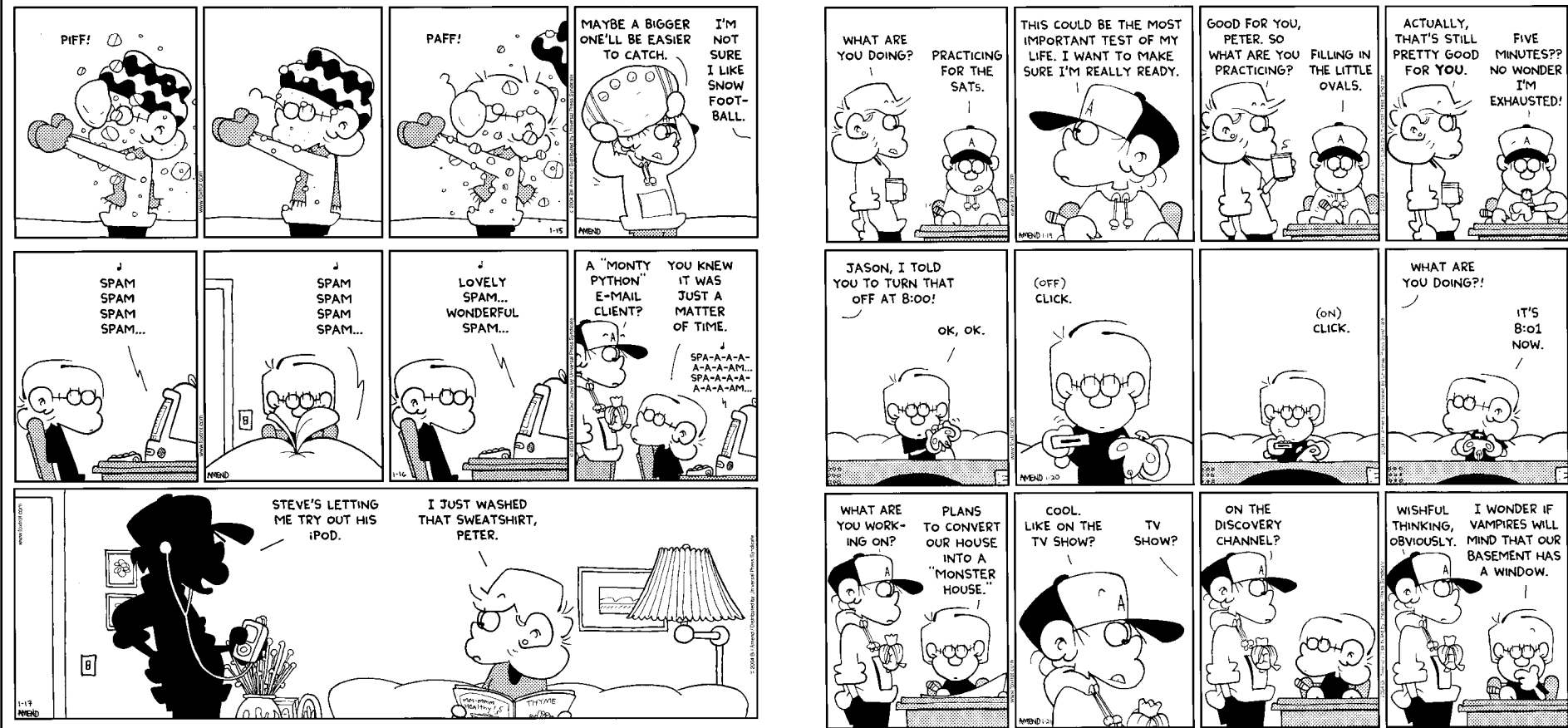
Dilbert®

by Scott Adams



FoxTrot

by Bill Amend



Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 14

- ACROSS

1 Tarries

6 Beatty film

10 Discomfort

14 Accustom

15 Verve

16 Praise

17 Loose rock debris

18 Supernatural power

19 Bullets and such

20 1992 tennis film?

23 Remains

24 Terminate

25 Grief

28 CIA forerunner

29 Family member

30 Going-public letters

32 Potash

33 Group of GIs

34 Scampered

36 1950 tennis film?
- 40 Like an open prairie

41 Horace work, "___ Poetica"

42 Botanist Gray

43 Actress Lupino

44 Handwritten writings: abbr.

45 Young man

48 Dog greetings

50 Spider-spotter's cry

51 Father

52 2003 tennis film?

56 Kuwait's ruler

58 Artist Bonheur

59 Land of Port-au-Prince

60 Kudrow of "Friends"

61 Large inland sea

62 State

63 Speedy

64 Bengal and Biscay

65 Painter's base
- DOWN

1 Cafe

2 Foot parts

3 Coercion

4 Build

5 Crystal-gazer

6 Jog one's memory

7 African antelope

8 Mild expletive

9 Catch

10 Texas shrine

11 Showy roselike flower

12 Buzz

13 Old name for Tokyo

21 Fermented

22 Worshipers

26 ___ and terminer

27 Funny Foxx

29 Epee wielder

30 ER neighbor

31 City SW of Roanoke

33 Enzyme
- ending

34 Distress letters

35 Letters for motor homes

36 Pierce

37 Sky bear

38 Close call

39 Baden-Powell's org.

44 Ore products

45 Boundaries

46 Narrow ridges

47 "Raging Bull" Oscar winner

49 Gold measure

50 Lamb paper

51 Ray

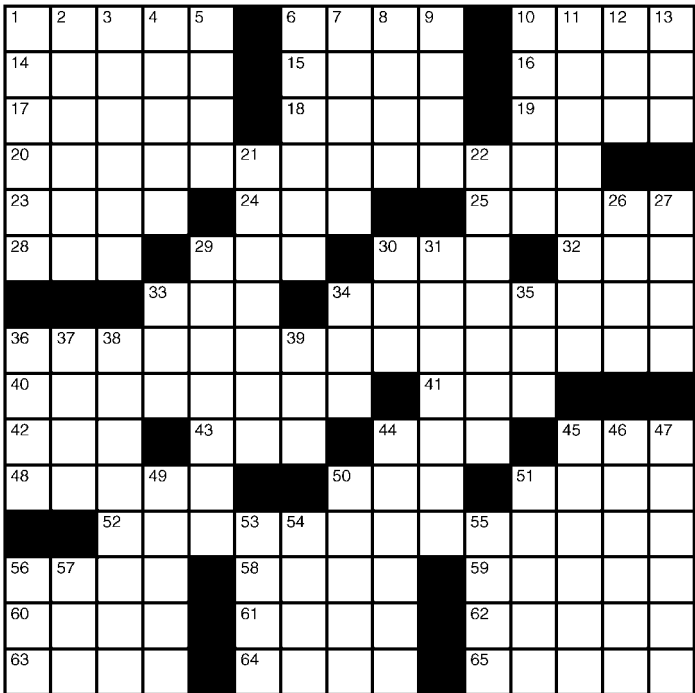
53 Fiddler or hermit

54 Israeli dance

55 Drink in one gulp

56 Sprite

57 Farrow of "The Purple Rose of Cairo"



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Council for the Arts at MIT Grants Program
is accepting applications for its next deadline

January 30, 2004

Please contact Susan Cohen (cohen@media.mit.edu) after January 5, 2004
to set up an appointment to discuss your application

We STRONGLY RECOMMEND that you set up an appointment

(proposals submitted for this deadline cannot support projects with a start date before March 14, 2004)

Currently registered MIT students, MIT faculty and MIT staff are eligible to apply
All types of arts projects are supported: visual, literary and performing arts

For more detailed information, read the Grants Guidelines on the web at:
<http://web.mit.edu/arts/grants/grantguide.html>

You may also submit your application from the web, at:
<http://web.mit.edu/arts/grants/grantform.html>


The Council for the Arts at MIT is a volunteer group of alumni and friends established to support the visual, literary, and performing arts at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Since its founding in 1972 by MIT President Jerome B. Wiesner, the Council for the Arts has worked "to foster the arts at MIT...[and]...to act as a catalyst for the development of a broadly based, highly participatory program in the arts." Appointed by the President of MIT to three-year terms, Council members serve as advocates and advisors to MIT's Associate Provost for the Arts.

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Owl's End: One Student's Take on Losing His Athena

By clydelaw@mit.edu

JAN. 15, 2004

At the time of this writing, my Athena account is already deactivated. This chronicle begins on November 4, 2003, the date I received notice of my account's impending demise due to my recent graduation from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The notice read:

Account Deactivation Notice (4 November 2003)
This is to notify you that your Athena account is scheduled for deactivation on or shortly after January 14, 2004.
If you are currently enrolled in classes, are currently MIT Faculty or Staff, or are working with an MIT Faculty or Staff member on a project that requires the use of Athena, please contact Athena User Accounts...

I was aghast. I had been expecting this eventuality for some time now, although I suppose the shock never completely set in.
With that, I dutifully set up the proper arrangements and backed up all of the contents of my Athena locker three days ago so that I might have some token with which to remember my goddess Athena. Not one to be so easily defeated, I logged into all-night-tool.mit.edu on January 14 at 3 p.m. EST to see what would happen if I were to stand my ground during the account deactivation.
All was fine and by 11 p.m., I was still able to invoke the usual Athena functions. However, I was extremely weary because of the late nights I had put up with for the past couple days and decided to take a nap (it was only 8 p.m. in my time zone, PST). After my respite, I arose at around 2 a.m. EST and decided to check on my Athena.

```
athena% znol
Can't open /afs/athena.mit.edu
/user/c/1/clydelaw/.anyone for
input

The error message gave me a jolt. Was this
the end? Had my goddess abandoned me?
I executed an 'ls' on my home directory.
The display of my directory listing proffered
me a modicum of relief. Even my .anyone file
opened with success when I accessed its con-
tents. Instinctively I attempted to renew my
Kerberos tickets:
```

```
athena% renew
Password for
clydelaw@ATHENA.MIT.EDU:
fsid: outland mapped
fsid: save mapped
fsid: gnu mapped
fsid: infoagents mapped
fsid: sibp mapped
```

Hallelujah! She continued to accept my password and renew my tickets. However I soon discovered that this triumph merely concealed what was to come.
I proceeded to hunt around into various other AFS lockers to which I had access privileges to ensure that all was still well, but then, changing back to my home directory yielded the following:

```
athena% cd
chdir: Can't change to home
directory.

Oh crap... Upon further insistence:

athena% cd ~
/afs/athena.mit.edu/user/c/1
/clydelaw: No such device.
```

Perhaps it was the case that my locker had become detached?

```
athena% attach clydelaw
clydelaw: Locker deactivat-
ed; contact 253-1325 for help
```

And so it was. Checking my user status with moira produced:

```
Login name: clydelaw
Full name: Law, Clyde
User id: 27673
Login shell: /bin/athena/tcsh
Class: G
Windows Console Shell: cmd
Account is: Deleted (3)
```

Account is: Deleted Those words struck me like a whetted knife. My defiance had been rebuked. Attempting to perform another ssh login to Athena proved to be futile. When presented with my username, she did not even bother with the effort to implore my password, responding with a curt retort:

```
You are not allowed to log
in here: Unknown username

...the bitch.

So here I was, wandering the land of
Athena like a vagrant without a home [direc-
tory] to return to. My MIT spirit of curiosity
had not abandoned me yet however. Since I
was still within the fortress gates, I decided
to discover what else I could do with whatever
remnants of my account were left.

zwgc was still running, so I attempted to
determine whether I could still zephyr. A
friend of mine was still online, so I ventured a
test:
```

```
athena% zwrite chchou
Type your message now. End
with control-D or a dot on a
line by itself.
hello?
Message queued for chchou... sent

Authentic Personal message at
03:05:07 on Thu Jan 15 2004
From: Christopher H Chou
<chchou> on NERD-XING.MIT.EDU
To: clydelaw@ATHENA.MIT.EDU
yo
```

But alas, I had to concede that the account was gone. A verification e-mail to myself further substantiated this unfortunate reality with a bounce message:

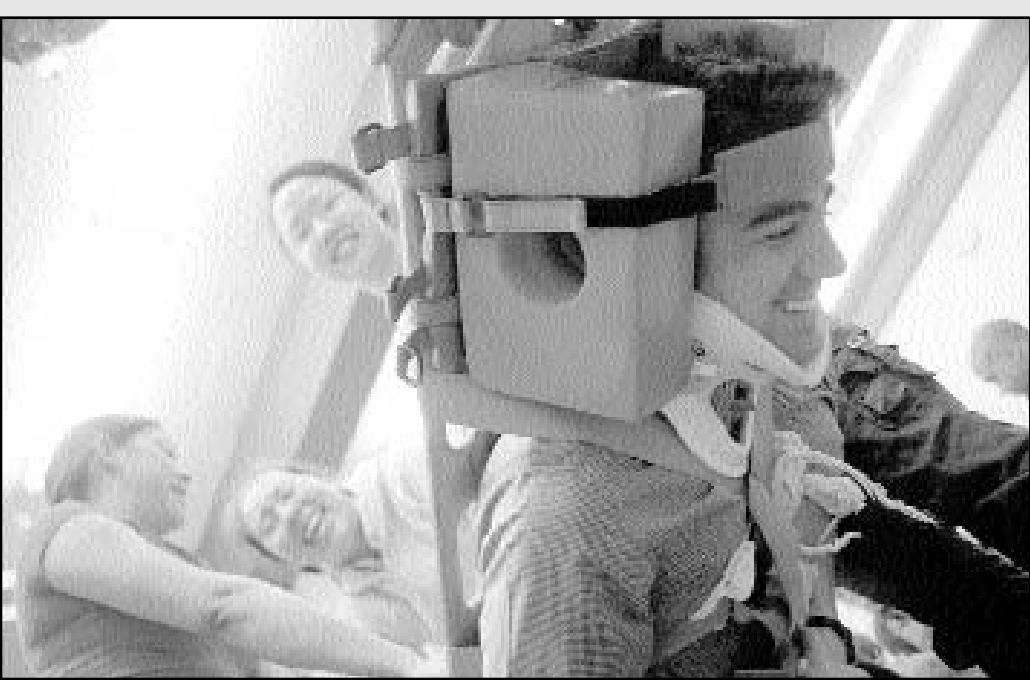
```
<clydelaw@mit.edu>: 18.7.21.83
does not like recipient.
Remote host said: 550 5.1.1
<clydelaw@mit.edu>... User
unknown
Giving up on 18.7.21.83.
```

Remarkably, further experimentation proved that my usual access privileges to various mailing lists and lockers had not yet been revoked.
I still maintained write privileges to the j-entry locker from the days when I had the duties of the MacGregor J-Entry Webmaster. Thus, I am taking this opportunity now to scrawl down this saga on the very last remaining location to which I still have access. This will probably be my final mark on the halls of Athena.
I continue to remain logged in, like a child clinging desperately to the mother who has abandoned him, but I fear I may not last long. Soon I will require sleep and my idle time limit will probably be reached, exiling me forever from my goddess Athena. At the very least I can proudly say I did not go down without a fight!
Some system administrator out there is probably logged in laughing at me.
Forever yours, Athena,
Clyde Law '02, MEng '03

Inspired in part by conversations with Ronojoy Chakrabarti '02, Christopher Chou '02, and Michel Lambert '04.

Epilogue
clydelaw was logged out during the early morning of Friday, January 16. Precise time of logout was determined to be 6:37 a.m. EST. After surviving over 24 hours post-deactivation, he decided to accept his fate and pull the plug on the keep-alive script. The inactivity monitors kicked in, and he was logged out peacefully while sleeping.

— Archit Shah '00



SEMS

Student Emergency Medical Service EMT Training



The Student Emergency Medical Service is running its annual emergency medical technician training class this month. The students hail from all parts of campus and range in age from freshmen to alumni. The course, which runs until early February, will prepare the students for the state EMT exam.

(top left) Ilia Santiago '05, Danielle Dahle '05, and Sandra Chung '04, rotate Jonathan Winter G on his spine board during a spinal immobilization exercise.

(bottom left) SEMS Chief Samuel Schweighart G helps Sarah Nelson '05 take vital signs in the back of a moving ambulance.

(above) Jay Miller '04, Russ Cox G, and Jay Jones '04 perform a standing takedown maneuver to secure Amy Perfors G to a backboard.

Photography by Daniel Bersak.



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NECCO Building Conversion

Beginning on Tuesday, January 20, Albany Street will be closed to vehicular traffic from Massachusetts Avenue to Pacific Street. The closure will remain in effect through the weekend. Drivers should use Landsdowne Street as a detour route. Work continues in the building atrium on glass elevator installation. Interior finish work continues at all levels of the building.

Work on the third and fourth floors and the basement level is substantially complete. The new fire alarm and sprinkler systems are complete and testing is underway. First and second floor piping, mechanical, and electrical work continues. New exhaust fans and ductwork on the roof have been installed.

Stata Center

Paver installation is proceeding as dictated by weather conditions. Interior work on office partitions and finishes (tile, interior glass, etc.) is underway in the Gates and Dreyfus towers.

Erection of steel continues. The sixth and seventh floors are now in progress. Albany Street between the Albany St. garage and Main Street will remain closed through spring/summer 2004.

Vassar Streetscape

Work on the Vassar Streetscape has been suspended for the winter and will begin again this spring.

For more information on MIT's building program, visit web.mit.edu/building.
This information provided by the MIT Department of Facilities.

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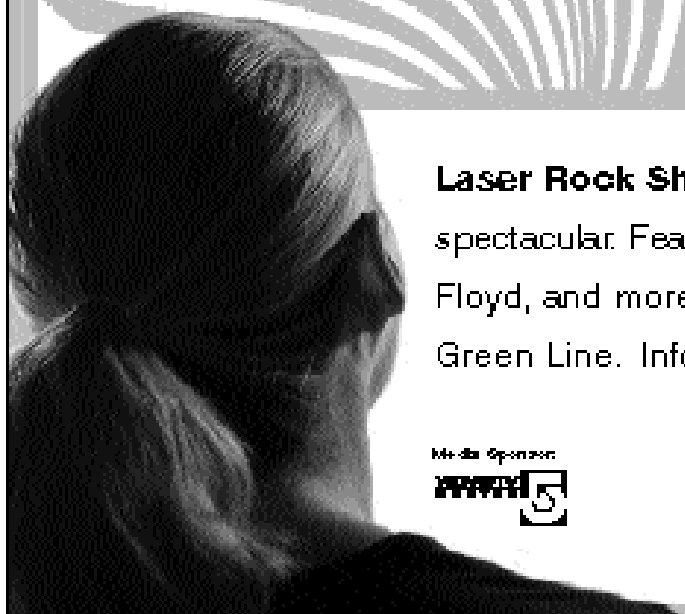
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Mystery Hunt Virgins Work Day And Night to See the Big Picture

Mystery Hunt, from Page 1

shifts to cover the early morning hours, and one of our team members set up a Wiki, a Web page we could all easily modify, so that we could keep track of our progress during the hunt.

About half of the team would come and go from puzzling, taking breaks to sleep, eat, and shower, though many of us established a permanent presence in the lounge. From time to time someone would leave briefly to get sustenance or to visit the French Armada.

Because we were a fairly small team of mostly first-time hunters, we would usually attack puzzles in pairs or small groups and work on them relentlessly until they were solved. From time to time the French Armada would call us with hints, though we generally were left to rely on having one of those “A-ha!” moments.

Sanity levels were rapidly dropping by Sunday afternoon, after a weekend of very little sleep and working on a single puzzle for several straight hours. Our goal in the final hours of the hunt became to complete one meta puzzle, which we did by making an origami pirate’s hat early on Monday morning.

Puzzles difficult but fun

One puzzle that I particularly struggled with was “May This Ember Glow,” a picture of 14 celebrity couples. We finally noticed that the picture included famous cradle-robbers like Jerry Lee Lewis and Woody Allen, and

we realized that the solution would have something to do with the large age difference for each “May-December” couple. Appropriately, the answer to that puzzle was “pre-frosh.”

Other fun puzzles like “Worship of Zacazontli” sent several of our team members out trying to identify specific telephones around campus, and “Measure of Devotion” involved picking out letters from certain words in Lobby 10.

Structure of hunt explained

After sleeping all day Monday, our team went to the wrap-up in the evening, where the French Armada awarded prizes, shared anecdotes about certain teams, and explained the general structure of the hunt.

Each island from the Map of all Space and Time involved solving about fifteen puzzles, and each island had a meta puzzle that required the solutions to most or all of the fifteen puzzles. After all seven meta puzzles had been completed, teams had a boarding pass to the Titanic.

From there, teams began the final runaround, solving a series of seven puzzles that required the seven items — including a skull, a small plastic gear, lock picks, a crystal, and a vial of rum — that were given to teams as each island was unlocked. One of the prizes awarded at the wrap-up was an additional vial of rum for the Baker team, who drank theirs as soon as they got it.

After the final runaround, the teams were sent to 54-100, where

they found the coin. Setec Astronomy found the coin first, though they were followed closely by PhysPlant, the team from Random Hall.

The recovery process

After thinking about nothing but Mystery Hunt for a good 68 straight hours, it’s bittersweet to find myself back in the routine of normal life.

Even on Monday evening I was still looking for patterns in everything I read, but I’ve mostly recovered by now. I’ve stopped answering the phone by saying “Arrr!” and I’ve relinquished my title as Captain.

Our team of mostly freshmen and sophomores felt overwhelmed at times, but I know we had a lot of fun and really enjoyed the experience. The French Armada especially did a good job of making sure all the teams were having a good time, providing us with hints when necessary. Even though I was only a second-year hunter, I felt like I had a much better understanding of the hunt this year, and so we’re hoping that our team will improve by next year.

In a lot of ways, I feel that the Mystery Hunt is representative of life here at MIT — a wild, crazy ride with lots of interesting and difficult problems to solve. The first time you try it, you feel completely hosed, but it gets better as you go along and eventually someone helps you see the big picture. And in the end, it isn’t how many puzzles you solved or even whether or not you found the coin that matters, it’s what you learned in the process and the fun you had getting there.

Burst Pipe Leads to Inactivated Sprinklers

Fire, from Page 1

pany has contracted for an investigation as well, Marshall said.

Frozen pipes disabled sprinklers

Prior to the fire, around 2 a.m. on Friday, the Boston Fire Department responded to an alarm at BTP, according to the MIT police log. The alarm was apparently caused by a burst pipe.

“A pipe had burst because [of] the bitter cold. I think it leaked a little water that steamed and set the fire alarm off,” said Daniel A. Bercovici ’04, the president of BTP.

The pipes also contributed to the damage done to the house. “There were several frozen pipes in the sprinkler system,” Marshall said. “The sprinkler system, the water, was disabled.” The smoke alarms, however, were still operational, he said.

Damage keeps members in annex

Displaced members of BTP will continue to live in their annex, across the street at 120 Bay State Road, because damage to the fourth floor must be repaired before anyone can move back into the house, Bercovici said.

“We have sufficient room and

the lodging licenses for them to live in the annex,” Marshall said.

Marshall expects the house to be closed for “the foreseeable future.” “We don’t know if that’s a month or five months,” he said. “We’re certainly expecting that the house will be available for the fall term so undergraduates can move into the house, including the pledges who will be initiated by then.”

“There’s substantial damage to the fourth floor but it seems to be mostly limited to the rear,” Marshall said. The two rooms that were affected by the fire “have been completely totaled and have to be rebuilt,” he said. Those rooms’ residents’ “personal belongings are basically a total loss.”

Firefighters also removed the plaster walls and ceiling of the rooms in order to prevent the fire from spreading, Marshall said. “The framing, the ceiling rafters are still there.”

Fires are not common at MIT fraternities, although there was a small space-heater fire at Theta Xi last month. “Never in my nine years of working fraternities had there been fires,” said Rogers. “And there have been two in the last month.”

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Panel #2: Peaceful Coexistence: What's Taking So Long? Featuring: David Broder, Richard L. Lamm, Brian Marmorek, Prof. Richard Lamm, Author of The World's Most Famous Human Machine, Moderator: Prof. Brian Marmorek, Thursday, February 12, 2004 - Harvard University, Emerson 105, 7:30 PM

Panel #3: Israel: Progress Toward a More Civil Society? Featuring: Zvi Ben-Avimech, Guest Moderator: Michael Oren, Moderator: David Broder (Speakers for Panel #3 are not yet confirmed) March, 2004 - Local on TED

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Guy Trial To Come In 2005

Lawsuit, from Page 1

Although the Guys assert that MIT is partly responsible for Guy's death, they acknowledge in the complaint that their son "was not blameless in this tragedy."

Shins, Carpenters also suing

The Guys' lawsuit is on schedule to go to trial in 2005. The two other wrongful death lawsuits pending against MIT — one filed by the parents of Elizabeth H. Shin '02, another by the father of Julia M. Carpenter '03 — will go to trial in 2005 and 2006, both seeking more than \$20 million from MIT and several MIT administrators and doctors whom the parents say were responsible for their daughters' suicides.

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Solution to Crossword

from page 8

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REST	END	GAME
ROSS	DAD	IPO
	AUS	SCURRIED
SUNSET	BOULEVARD	
TREELESS	ARS	
ASA	IDA	MSS
BARKS	EEK	SIRE
MATCH	STICK	MENT
EMIR	ROSA	HAITI
LISA	ARAL	UTTER
FAST	BAYS	GESSO

Women's Swim, Dive Teams Beat Brandeis

By Victoria Anderson
TEAM MEMBER

The MIT women's swimming and diving team split a double dual meet on Jan. 18, topping Brandeis 209.5-77.5 and falling to Tufts 139-160. The Beavers dropped their first 200-yard medley relay of the season, as the combined swims of Erin M. Zoller '05, Melissa E. Dere '06, Aasia Saleemuddin '04, and Kathryn M. Duffy '04 totaled to 1:56.15, over a second behind Tufts' top relay. Their time was, however, good for first against Brandeis, and the relay team of Victoria K. Anderson G, Monica W. Chu '07, Jessica A. Harpole '07, and Mabel Y. Feng '06 posted a 2:01.26 for third against both Brandeis and Tufts.

Katherine C. Thornton '07 led off the individual events of the meet with a spectacular performance in the 1650 freestyle. Her time of 17:26.00 not only gave her first place against both teams, but also put her only one-hundredth of a second away from an automatic qualifying time for the NCAA Division III National Championships. With her 1650 time, as well as her 1000 split time of 10:31.83, she bettered her own Institute records of just one month. Also swimming the 1650, Maryann E. Racine '06 touched in 19:25.09 to take third against both teams.

In the 200 free, Georgene M. Hilb '04 finished first overall with a season-best time of 1:58.62. Starting off the first round of stroke races, Jennifer A. L'ao '05 finished the 100 back with a time of 1:03.75 to place first against the Brandeis swimmers and second against the Tufts athletes. In the 100 breast, Dere took second against Brandeis and first against Tufts with a time of 1:11.02 while Chu was third against both teams, touching in 1:13.14. Thorn-

ton climbed back on the blocks shortly after her 1650 performance to swim a time of 2:14.25 in the 200 fly, which put her second against Tufts and third against Brandeis.

In the sprint free events, Duffy and Zoller took first and second against Brandeis and first and third against Tufts with times of 24.64 and 26.11, respectively, while Duffy and Hilb were first and second against Brandeis and first and third against Tufts with times of 53.37 and 56.00, respectively. L'ao and Zoller took to the water for the 200 back, taking second and third against Tufts and first and second against Brandeis with their times of 2:17.07 and 2:18.29, respectively. Dere and Chu dominated the Tufts swimmers in the 200 breast, taking first and second with times of 2:31.93 and 2:38.44, respectively, that also put them second and third against Brandeis.

Thornton finished off another Institute record with a 5:11.06 in the 500 free, which put her first against both teams. Also swimming the 500 free, Hilb posted a 5:21.58 to take third against Tufts and second against Brandeis. In the 100 fly, Chu and Saleemuddin took second and third against both schools with times of 1:04.64 and 1:05.06, respectively.

The final record-setting event of the meet was the 400 IM, as L'ao finished in 4:44.42, breaking the Institute record in the event and taking second against Tufts and first against Brandeis. Closing out the meet, Duffy, Hilb, Thornton, and L'ao took the top spot against Tufts and Brandeis with their time of 8:08.72, while Lindsey R. Sheehan '07, Rebecca E. Jimenez, Racine, and Elizabeth A. Whitehead '07 were third against both teams in 8:51.06.



Men's basketball coach Larry Anderson argues with a referee over a call during last Thursday's game at Rockwell Cage. Salem State overcame a 12-point deficit to hand the MIT team a 70-67 loss in overtime.

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| 11:00 – 12 pm: Dress-to-success (Brooks Brothers) | 4-149 |
| Communication Across Disciplines | 4-231 |
| 12:00 – 1:00 pm: Lunch | |
| Afternoon Talks (Part I) | 10-250 |
| 1:00 – 2:00 pm: RNAi: New Frontiers in Drug Discovery
Dr. John Maraganore – CEO, Alnylam Pharmaceuticals | |
| 2:00 – 2:50 pm: The Future of Wireless Technology
Dr. Paul Perry – Director, Verizon Wireless | |

- 2:50 – 3:40 pm: **Nanobiotechnology**
Dr. Angela Belcher – Associate Professor, MIT

- Afternoon Tea** 10-250 Lobby
3:40 – 4.10 pm : **Coffee, tea & hors' d'oeuvres**
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4.10 – 5:00 pm : **Quantum Computers: Towards the Futures**
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MIT CLUB



SPORTS

Patriots Rock Colts, Panthers Kill Eagles in Championship Games

By Brian Chase
COLUMNIST

Well, let the mocking begin. I went out on a limb and predicted the Patriots would lose their AFC Championship game against the Indianapolis Colts, and the Pats made me pay for it. I'll tell you just how they did it and how the Carolina Panthers easily beat the Philadelphia Eagles, in addition to making my pick for the Super Bowl in today's column.

Indianapolis at New England:

Everyone going into this game thought that the extreme cold weather would hurt the Colts. Well, the weather was a factor, but not in the way everyone thought. The game wasn't that cold, but there was a wet snowfall that made both the field and the ball very slick, leading to an increased number of turnovers. But the real story of this game was the New England pass defense.

The Pats absolutely shut down the Colts receivers from star receiver Marvin Harrison on down. This meant that Colts quarterback Peyton Manning was forced to spend more time holding onto the ball, to the point where his pass protection broke down, and he was forced to

lob badly-thrown passes. Four of those passes were intercepted, and over half were incomplete, giving Manning his worst showing this year as a quarterback. These interceptions shut down promising drives for the Colts, and they ended up being the difference in the game. All in all, it was a very impressive, dominating performance by the Patriots defense, leading their team to a 24-14 win.

Carolina at Philadelphia:

The Eagles are cursed. They simply cannot get past the NFC Championship Game. For the third straight year, they lost one game away from the Super Bowl, this time to the Carolina Panthers, 14-3. This game, interestingly enough, shaped up almost exactly like the Pats-Colts game, in that the Panthers secondary shut down the Eagles receivers, who dropped passes and didn't get open all night. This led to Eagles QB Donovan McNabb getting hurried, sacked, and eventually forced out of the game with a rib injury, but not before he had thrown three interceptions to end three consecutive drives, all three by Panthers cornerback Ricky Manning. The Panther's offense ran the ball as they always do, and while they may not have been as effective as they wanted, they were effective enough to score

twice, once off of one of Manning's interceptions, and that was all that was needed.

And here we are, at the Super Bowl. All season I have been 1-1 for each pair of games I picked, so this game will determine if my prediction record is a winning or losing one. My current record is 7-7.

Superbowl — Carolina vs. New England:

I am almost tempted to pick the Panthers in this extremely defensive game. They have a defense comparable to the Patriots, with a bruising defensive front and effective pass defenders. Their offense is the opposite of the Pats, because they have running with a little passing, and the Pats have passing with a little running. But, I was taught a lesson by the Patriots last weekend, and while erring might be human, erring the same way twice is pretty darn dumb. The Patriots came out last Sunday with a defensive game plan that absolutely destroyed Colts' QB Peyton Manning, and they will do the same to the Panthers' offense. This leaves the burden on Patriots offensive coordinator Weis and QB Tom Brady to score on the Panthers' defense, which I think they can do. After all, when the defense is this good, all you need is one touchdown. Final score: Patriots 13, Panthers 6.

Why the NCAA Is Better Than the NBA

By Brian Chase
COLUMNIST

Besides the NFL playoffs, which are getting the most attention in the sports world nowadays, this month is also the height of basketball season, with both the NBA and NCAA Division I basketball seasons in full swing. I'm only paying attention to one of those leagues, though, and that's the college one. To me, collegiate basketball is much more entertaining than the NBA, for several reasons.

1. Egos

In college basketball, you don't run into any players that are convinced they are the be-all, end-all of the league and deserve to be paid that way. College players, through the difficulty of the competition, the fact that most of them are still learning, and the fact that they are paid in education, seem to me to be much more humble, and much more likeable, than anyone in the NBA.

2. Playing style

To me, it seems that more teams in college win through united team strategies than relying on two or three stars for individual performances, like in the NBA. Admitted-

ly, there are college teams that play that way as well, but for every one of them there is a team like Gonzaga, who consistently plays better than their talent because they have a good coach and because they play as a united whole, relying on no one player.

3. College Fans

There is no NBA stadium that can produce the intensity and outright crazy fanaticism that college students show for their respective teams. You don't see NBA stadiums filled with an entire section of screaming college fans all with painted bodies and choreographed, traditional tactics to disrupt the opposing team on free throws. It adds a level of excitement and enjoyment to college games that isn't there in the NBA.

4. Parity

In any given year of college basketball, there are at least twenty teams that are good enough to win the championship, unlike the NBA, where you know a Western conference team will win, and you usually even know which one by the first round of the playoffs. In college basketball, you never know until the final game who's going to win, and a winner can come from any of the

major conferences. The greater number of teams also means there are more possible match-ups between good teams, and so generally more good games than in the NBA.

5. Permanence

In college, there is a much better chance the team you root for will be around for as long as you are, and there is no chance of the team being sold or moving cities. Along the same lines, the sheer number of college teams means that more people have a team they can root for, even if they do not live near a major city.

6. Playoffs

This one goes pretty much without saying. To me, the NBA playoffs never come near to the excitement of March Madness. And really, that's the most important part of the season, isn't it?

Now, I admit, the individual players are undoubtedly better in the NBA than in college, and maybe the level of basketball is, too. But to me, those factors don't make up the difference between the enjoyment I get from college basketball and the only slight interest I have in the NBA. For my money, give the younger guys the ball, and let the pros complain to their agents.



STANLEY HU—THE TECH

Adam J. Gibbons '05 (second from left), Kyle T. Doherty '04 (center), and Michael E. Huhs '05 (32), reach for a rebound during MIT's 67-58 win over Springfield College last Tuesday at Rockwell Cage.

Why Don't Americans Appreciate 'Football'?

By Yong-yi Zhu
COLUMNIST

What do I love? Do I love my girlfriend? Do I love ESPN? Do I love my conditioner? All I know is

Column

the world, sans the United States of America, loves the sport of soccer. At least, soccer is what we Americans term it; the rest of the universe knows it as football.

Doesn't the word football make sense? After all, you do play the game with your feet and a ball. Soccer has origins from all over the world. Its beginnings range from Egypt where it was a part of a religious ceremony, to China where the sport was used for military training, to Central America and North America, where it takes the closest form of what it current is. In fact, soccer now is so easy to play that all you need is a ball and a couple of people. Many children in the United States play soccer. After all, the number of kids that played had to be high enough so that the word "soccer mom" could be invented. We don't hear of "football moms" or "little league moms," right?

So then, why does the rest of the world watch soccer like a religion, while we pay as little attention to it as most pretty girls pay to me? Take the most outrageous example. To the rest of the world, David Beckham is a god. After his marriage to Posh Spice, Beckham's popularity has perhaps matched that of Muhammed Ali. Just flipping through any soccer magazine, one can find at least a dozen references to the man and at least a half dozen photos. In fact, he has even posed for a magazine for homosexual men, despite being happily married to Victoria Beckham. His sale this summer from Manchester United to Real Madrid sparked many to phone in protests on the British side, because they feel as though they are losing an icon to a foreign country; it's almost as if the Beatles suddenly became Spanish.

However, if Beckham were to walk around New York City, the majority of the people would have no clue who the man is. One might say the same for Figo, Zidane, or any of the other superstars of soccer, even though they are the equivalents of Michael Jordan or Tiger Woods.

Take another example of sports broadcasting. When you watch ESPN, what do you see as a headline? "Bonds hit 73rd home run!" Or "Redskins hire Joe Gibbs!" Or "Spurs win NBA title!" Never has anyone heard the headline: "FC Barcelona edges Real Madrid!" on ESPN.

In fact, several weeks ago, I heard a radio show by Dan LeBatard where he said that he went to a soccer game, and they scored as many goals as if he didn't show up, therefore the sport is a waste of his time. In China, just as an example, things are completely the reverse. I watched a half-hour long sports program once and it featured five minutes of volleyball, 23 minutes of soccer, one minute of Yao Ming, and a minute for everything else sports related. It's such a complete 180 from the world that we are used to.

Perhaps the reason for this is that we are fundamentally different from other countries in many areas. Our country's wealth is different from many others; therefore, we may take a liking to the sports that require more wealth to play. Soccer, as I had said before, is simple, while every other sport needs more equipment or more people.

We are also rather elitist. If we are not the best at something, usually, there is a small fan base for it. Soccer is just that; all the great players are foreign.

With all those theories, I got a little more down to Earth: I asked a friend of mine why she played soccer. Her answer was that she wanted more than just the running she was getting from track, and the ball handling practice drew her to it. To her, it was merely a ball handling exercise.

The answer was very logical, yet it lacked passion. Perhaps if more Americans thought logically, they would find soccer to be a great sport technique-wise. However most Americans merely go with whatever is fun or cool, and the flashy dunks of the NBA and the glamorous home runs of the MLB attract more people than a simple ball in a net.

Perhaps soccer's simplicity has brought its demise to itself in the American society. Or perhaps we're simply not culturally in tune with the rest of the world. Whatever the difference, I'll always respect it. I at least owe that much to the world's greatest love.

We want you in our sheets.



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